

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 668

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Head Coach Tory Acheson and the Tennessee Tech University softball team upon winning the 2007 Ohio Valley Conference Tournament Championship and the OVC regular season championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, lead by Head Coach Tory Acheson, the Tennessee Tech University (TTU) softball team has achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2007 season, winning the 2007 Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Softball Tournament to add to their OVC regular season title and tying the school record for wins in a season with fifty wins against only nineteen losses; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Eagles softball team claimed the OVC regular season championship in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as part of a doubleheader, with a 7-0 victory over the Southeast Missouri Redhawks; Senior Bonnie Bynum displayed her legendary pitching skills by throwing her sixth career no-hitter; and

WHEREAS, fighting back from the losers bracket, top-seeded Tennessee Tech swept back-to-back games with Jacksonville State to win their third consecutive OVC Tournament title as they shut down the Gamecocks 4-0 to win the first game and rallied, down 0-3, to claim the championship when Junior Kristyn Castonzo hit a one-out, walk-off home run to seal the victory; and

WHEREAS, Golden Eagle pitching ace, Bonnie Bynum, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player for the third consecutive year and was joined by teammates Krystina Dobbs, Stephanie Fischer, and Kristyn Castonzo on the All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, by capturing the OVC Tournament Crown, the Golden Eagles earned another automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament win and were sent to the Tuscaloosa Regional, along with Florida State, California and top-five ranked Alabama; and

WHEREAS, proving that Cinderella sometimes wears a batting helmet and a softball glove, the women from Tennessee Tech, with a national television audience watching, stunned the softball world by defeating Alabama 4-2 in their first round game to win their first NCAA Regional game ever; they followed that impressive victory with a 3-1 win over California to advance to the Regional Finals for the first time in school history; and

WHEREAS, in their victory over the Crimson Tide, the phenomenal hitters of Tennessee Tech showcased their long-ball game, sending three balls over the wall for home runs – something Alabama hadn't allowed their opponents to do all season – to provide the runs needed for Bonnie Bynum to secure the win, as Alabama lost only their second home game of the season; and

WHEREAS, having charged to the regional championship game undefeated, the Golden Eagles faced an Alabama team that would have to win twice to advance to the NCAA Super Regionals and the Sweet Sixteen; despite a gallant and courageous effort, Tennessee Tech's record-breaking season came to an end with two back-to-back losses; and

WHEREAS, championships are achieved only through hard work, dedication, and the ability to work together as a team and excel together with a cooperative spirit; the Golden Eagles exhibited each of these rare qualities during their conference tournament and the NCAA Regionals; and

WHEREAS, the softball players at Tennessee Tech University epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the diamond while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; they inspired the school's student body and united their entire community by means of their triumphal run through the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament and their amazing journey to the NCAA Regional Finals; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagle softball team are:  
Amanda Clark, Stephanie Fischer, Bonnie Bynum, Krystina Dobbs, Katie Sutherland, Kristina

Hortert, Lauren Upton, Sarah Street, Ashley Potts, Katie Speiser, Amanda Glover, Heather Kendrick, Beth Boden, Kerilyn Mongar, Kristyn Castonzo, and Emily Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship softball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding team enjoys the services of Head Coach Tory Acheson and greatly benefits from the years of knowledge, game experience, and passion for the sport of softball shared by he and his staff, Assistant Coach Terry Acheson, Assistant Coach Samantha Lovelady, and Volunteer Coach Chris Williams; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles softball team upon winning the 2007 Ohio Valley Conference softball Tournament title and for serving as examples of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Head Coach Tory Acheson and the Tennessee Tech University softball team upon capturing the 2007 Ohio Valley Conference Tournament Championship as well as the regular season title, applaud their brilliant performance in the NCAA Regionals, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.